



## **CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH Bicycle Master Plan Oversight Committee DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** December 2, 2013  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Newport Beach Civic Center Community Room  
100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach, 92660

### **1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

### **2. ROLL CALL**

Committee Members Present – Councilman/Chair Tony Petros, Michael Alti, Robert Kahn, Greg Kline, Sean Matsler, Frank Peters

Committee Members Absent – Lou Cohen, John Heffernan

City Staff – Lt. Jeff Lu, Sr. Civil Engineer Brad Sommers, Associate Planner Fern Nueno

Consultant Staff – Alta Planning and Design - Paul Martin; RBF Consulting - Michelle Lieberman

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Member Bob Kahn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Quentin Wall requested installation of sharrows on the Via Lido Bridge. He noted he is a member of the homeowner's association board and will introduce the topic at their meeting. Chair Petros responded that he would like the City to consider sharrows in this location in the Bicycle Master Plan. Committee Member Peters asked if a volunteer was needed to represent the Bicycle Master Plan Oversight Committee at that homeowners association. Chair Petros responded that members can attend if desired.

Ms. Stacy Kline requested sharrows be installed on Balboa Boulevard.

Chair Petros introduced James Pinheiro, Romeo Estrella, and Bassem Barsoum of Caltrans.

## **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Petros noted a typo on page 2 of the October 7, 2013 minutes stating the "Southern California Area Governments" should read "Southern California Association of Governments".

Committee Member Matsler noted that Mr. Jim Mosher requested clarification on the date of the Christmas Eve Eve ride. Committee Member Peters said the date has not been decided yet. Committee Member Matsler suggested the wording be left as is.

**ACTION:** Motion by Committee Member Peters to approve the minutes as revised. Seconded by Committee Member Matsler. Motion passed unanimously.

## **6. CURRENT BUSINESS**

### **A. Bicycle Master Plan Existing Conditions Report**

Ms. Lieberman provided an overview of the recent community outreach events.

Mr. Martin provided an overview of the existing conditions findings, including information on current programs related to education, encouragement, enforcement and evaluation.

Committee Member Peters noted sharrow should be considered on the Marine Avenue bridge.

Committee Member Peters asked if the mode share projection is typical or comparable to similar cities. Mr. Martin responded that the projection provides a good target point for the City and allows the City to position itself for funding, noting Caltrans requires an update of the Bicycle Master Plan every five years and the numbers will be looked at again.

Committee Member Peters asked how the data for Newport Beach compares to Huntington Beach and Irvine. Mr. Martin said he did not have that information at hand.

Committee Member Alti asked why the reduction in vehicle miles traveled and reduced CO2 emission projections are not directly related to the projected increase in bicycling. Mr. Martin noted the numbers are related but there are other factors involved in the projection.

Committee Member Matsler noted the number of bicycles counted decreased when moving south along Coast Hwy. Mr. Martin said it could be a number of reasons including where people live and it may be that less people are riding in Corona del Mar. Chair Petros noted the Coast Hwy/Bayside intersection may be a point where cyclists turn off the highway to use Back Bay Dr.

Ms. Lieberman provided information about the input received through the online survey to date.

Mr. Martin described the following upcoming events:

- Online survey will conclude at the end of December
- Youth workshop is tentatively scheduled for January 2014
- Public agency stakeholder meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2014
- Draft bikeways network discussion with the Committee in February/March 2014

Chair Petros asked that Staff post the existing conditions document along with the meeting presentation PowerPoint on the City's website once finalized so that it could be used as a reference document. Sr. Civil Engineer Sommers said the link to the document will be emailed to the committee and interested parties in advance of the meeting.

Committee Member Kahn asked that sharrows be evaluated for the bridges. He also asked if the appropriateness of using sharrows where there is no on-street parking be evaluated.

Committee Member Kline asked if the quality of bicycle infrastructure was being evaluated as part of the Bicycle Master Plan. Mr. Martin responded that the atypical infrastructure and locations were being noted and will be evaluated for improvement recommendations.

Chair Petros requested that the consultant review the list of recommended improvements previous committees developed.

Committee Member Kahn asked if the maintenance or condition of the existing bike lanes will be evaluated. Committee Member Matsler echoed the question. Mr. Sommers said the Bicycle Master Plan is not evaluating the specific maintenance conditions, but the City can address these items as part of its standard maintenance procedures. Concerns about bicycle facility conditions can be directed to Mr. Sommers.

Ms. Stacy Kline suggested the City remove the Bicycle Safety Committee link on the City's website since that committee no longer exists and that the online survey link is put on the Bicycle Master Plan Oversight Committee page. She encouraged the City to get feedback from community members who do not bicycle as well. She suggested changing "No Parking" signs to "No Stopping" signs on streets with bike lanes. She commented that the current configuration of Seashore Drive mixes joggers and bicycles and suggested the street have sharrows or bike lanes to separate the cyclists from the joggers.

Mr. Bob Masuzumi asked if the youth workshop would be a safety workshop at an elementary school. Mr. Martin replied the workshop is intended to engage youth in the Bicycle Master Plan process and would not be focused on bicycle safety instruction. Lt. Lu noted the Police Department conducts bicycle safety rodeos at schools.

Mr. Masuzumi asked if the 3-foot law will be incorporated into the bicycle designs. Mr. Martin noted the 3-foot is related to moving motor vehicles passing distance to bicycles and the law will assist with enforcement.

Ms. Brenda Miller asked that the Committee and the City include lofty mode share goals in the master plan and the General Plan Circulation Element. She asked that the City focus on safe routes to schools and model equality.

A community member asked for a comparison to of the number of bicycle-related incidents in Newport Beach to those in other cities.

Another community member asked if a database for cyclists to report near misses could be developed. He suggested the City have a distracted driver enforcement campaign and post signs in high traffic areas. Additionally he suggested the City assess locations where signals are not triggered by bicycles on the road. Committee Member Peters noted that video camera detection is being used at the Civic Center for bicycles to trigger the signals.

## **B. Bicycle Projects Update**

Senior Civil Engineer Sommers reported on current bicycle projects. The City is looking at putting in bicycle lanes on Avocado Avenue and extending the sharrows on Bayside Drive through the current roadway rehabilitation project. He noted the Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program locations, including Eastbluff Dr, Ford Rd, San Joaquin Hills Rd, Jamboree Rd and Spy Glass Hill Rd are being reviewed as part of the grant administration. Additionally, he noted the Newport Boulevard widening project is in design and construction and is planned for 2015. Conceptual design for the widening of Coast Hwy. through the Arches interchange is also underway.

Committee Member Kline asked if the projects were going to be available for public comment. Mr. Sommers noted projects of this nature are generally not released to the public until the design is further along. He noted they may be brought to the Committee at a later date.

Committee Member Matsler requested that the Committee be able to see the Arches interchange design.

Ms. Kline suggested the City consider extending yellow lights in some areas where the lights change too quickly for a cyclist to cross. Mr. Sommers noted the City is updating the standard detection per the Caltrans directive with new and rehabilitated traffic signals. He also noted the City is testing new detection technologies, such as video and radar detection.

Committee Member Kahn noted a recent seminar he and Mr. Sommers attended that detailed recent tests for radar detection within the City of Tustin.

Mr. James Pinheiro reported Caltrans is reviewing signing, striping and pavement marking improvements on Coast Highway. He noted Caltrans is starting the Coast Highway Study with OCTA and consultant selection is in process.

Chair Petros commented that the City has added improved striping on the City portion of Coast Highway and encouraged Caltrans to collaborate with the City.

A community member commented cyclists have a hard time crossing Newport Coast Drive near the 73 off ramp because of high vehicle speeds. Committee Member Matsler noted the previous committee did look at that intersection. Mr. Sommers noted additional advance warning signs and other signs were installed in that area per the recommendations of the Citizen's Bicycle Safety Committee.

A community member commented that there are signs currently up in Irvine along Irvine Boulevard that are very visible and that the size of the signs should be considered. Committee Member Kahn noted the signs are decorative and possibly located on private property.

Ms. Kelley Gast commented that she saw many speeding cars while conducting the bicycle counts on Newport Coast Drive.

A community member commented that bicyclists also need to be educated about crossing Newport Coast Drive near the 73.

Ms. Miller encouraged the City and Caltrans to view the road as being for all users.

Mr. Ron Wortman thanked Caltrans for attending the meeting and complimented the City on the recent improvements, noting the City's striping on Coast Hwy has been effective in helping cyclists and motorists negotiate the turn pockets. He asked Caltrans to consider installation of similar markings at turns in their section of the highway.

Committee Member Alti asked how the complete streets deputy directive influences Caltrans studies and projects. Mr. Pinheiro noted the Coast Hwy study will be an opportunity to review the needs for all users.

#### **C. Police Department Update**

Lt. Jeff Lu reviewed recent bicycle-involved incidents within the City noting 107 bicycle involved accidents to date in 2013, while there were 103 for 2012 during the same time period. There were 106 total bicycle-involved incidents in 2012. He noted 52 of the reported bicycle-involved incidents involved a moving motor vehicle.

The Police Department conducted a bicycle rodeo at Newport Heights Elementary and Anderson Elementary. Additionally, the Police Department presented bicycle/pedestrian/skateboard safety at Ensign Middle School.

Lt. Lu noted Police Department and Traffic Engineering have worked with Newport Coast Elementary School regarding school traffic and safety. He also noted there have been signing and striping improvements as well as increased enforcement. He informed the

attendees that the 25 mile per hour limit is for the school zone and only enforceable when children are present.

Lt. Lu provided information about the bicycle accident on November 6<sup>th</sup> that resulted in a fatality. The accident occurred at approximately 7:41 pm at the intersection of San Joaquin Hills Road and Marguerite Avenue. The motor vehicle was traveling westbound on San Joaquin Hills and the cyclist was turning west on to San Joaquin Hills from north bound Marguerite. The investigation is ongoing.

Committee Member Peters commented that one of the side effects of an ongoing investigation is that the public does not always get to hear the outcome of the investigation.

Committee Member Kline asked if there has been a change in the number of accidents in the areas with sharrows on Coast Highway. Lt. Lu responded he did not have the information with him at time of the meeting and can provide that information at a future meeting.

Chair Petros read information about the number of bicycle-related fatalities in Newport Beach in the last ten years. He noted that while each fatality is tragic, the numbers have not changed while bicycling has increased.

A community member asked if the Police Department is monitoring speed on San Joaquin Hills. Lt. Lu could not provide specific information, but noted the Police Department can deploy resources such as radar trailers.

Ms. Miller thanked Lt. Lu and the Police Department for being responsive and for their involvement in the Committee meetings. She requested that the City be transparent to the greatest extent possible.

A community member asked how the number of bicycle fatalities compared to other cities of similar population sizes.

Ms. Kline asked that the City look closely at areas with high speed interchanges.

#### **7. COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS OR MATTERS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA (NON-DISCUSSION ITEMS)**

Committee Member Peters noted that Huntington Beach worked with OCTA to get community announcements into the water bills. He also noted Huntington Beach is considering reducing fines for cyclists in an effort to enforce more cycling misconduct.

#### **8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 3, 2014 at 5:00 pm.

9. **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Minutes Approved:

 3/3/14  
Chairman / Tony Petros Date